

Covid's wealth divide, rockets fired in Israel and a family's lifeline

In the UK this week, as prime minister Boris Johnson confirmed loosening of Covid restrictions for England and with more than half the population having received at least one dose of vaccine, one might have thought the days of the pandemic were numbered. In fact, more cases have been reported globally in recent weeks than in the entire first six months of the pandemic, with south Asia bearing the brunt. In our Big Story this week, Peter Beaumont and Michael Safi explore the increasingly clear divide between rich and poor in the push to contain Covid.

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Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians escalated dramatically this week as militant groups in Gaza fired rockets into Israel, which responded with strikes on the Palestinian enclave following a police raid on the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem that left hundreds injured. Anger had been growing for weeks among Palestinians before an expected Israeli court ruling on whether authorities were able to evict dozens of Palestinians and give their homes to Jewish settlers. Oliver Holmes reports from Jerusalem amid fears of a new wave of prolonged hostility.

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'I seek a kind person,' began a classified advert in the Manchester Guardian of 3 August 1938. It was placed by the grandparents of the Guardian's world affairs editor Julian Borger, Austrian Jews desperately seeking a safe haven from the Nazis for their 11-year-old son. This week Borger recalls his remarkable family story, mirroring that of many Jewish families under Nazi rule at the time.

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On the cover

At the forefront of efforts to respond to an emerging two-speed Covid world has been the vexed question of how to increase vaccine production and delivery to ensure a fairer distribution, with only 0.2% of the 700m vaccines distributed so far going to low-income countries.

Illustration: Guardian Design



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